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ダイヤのA エース 2

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講
本体

名門、青道高校に入学した沢村栄純。
初日の寝坊で監督の逆鱗に触れ、最悪のスタートを切った。
名誉挽回とばかりに息巻く沢村だが、連投講義で結果も出せず
「投手は諦めろ!」と宣告されてしまう。
実力者揃いの青道野球部では、一軍への道のりは果てしなく遠い!!
ひたすらエースを目指す沢村の前に、
さらに強力なライバル、降谷が登場!!

Ace of the Diamond

2
Ace of Diamond
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

CONTENTS

第6話／投手失格・・・3

第7話／待ってろよ！・・・26

第8話／同じタイプ？・・・49

第9話／気まずい時間・・・79

第10話／激　突・・・103

第11話／三年生の意地・・・123

第12話／まだだ！・・・149

第13話／代打オレ！・・・169

●掲載／週刊少年マガジン2006年第29号～第36・37合併号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

FROM HOME TO THE FENCE IS AROUND 90 METERS...
IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT, YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP ON BEING A PITCHER RIGHT NOW.

HAHA...
GIVE UP BEING A PITCHER?

WATCH CAREFULLY...
MR FOUR EYES SIR

THIS IS...

NO WAY!

THE OPENING ACT OF...
MY LEGEND!!
Pitcher Elimination
第6話 投手失格
ダイヤのA エース

青心寮
I'M BACK!
AHAHA! WE WON IT, SAWAMURA!
WE'RE IN THE BEST 16 FOR THE SPRING TOURNAMENT!
YAY!
ALL RIGHT! NOW...
LET'S PLAY A GAME TO CELEBRATE!!
HEY...
DON'T IGNORE ME!!

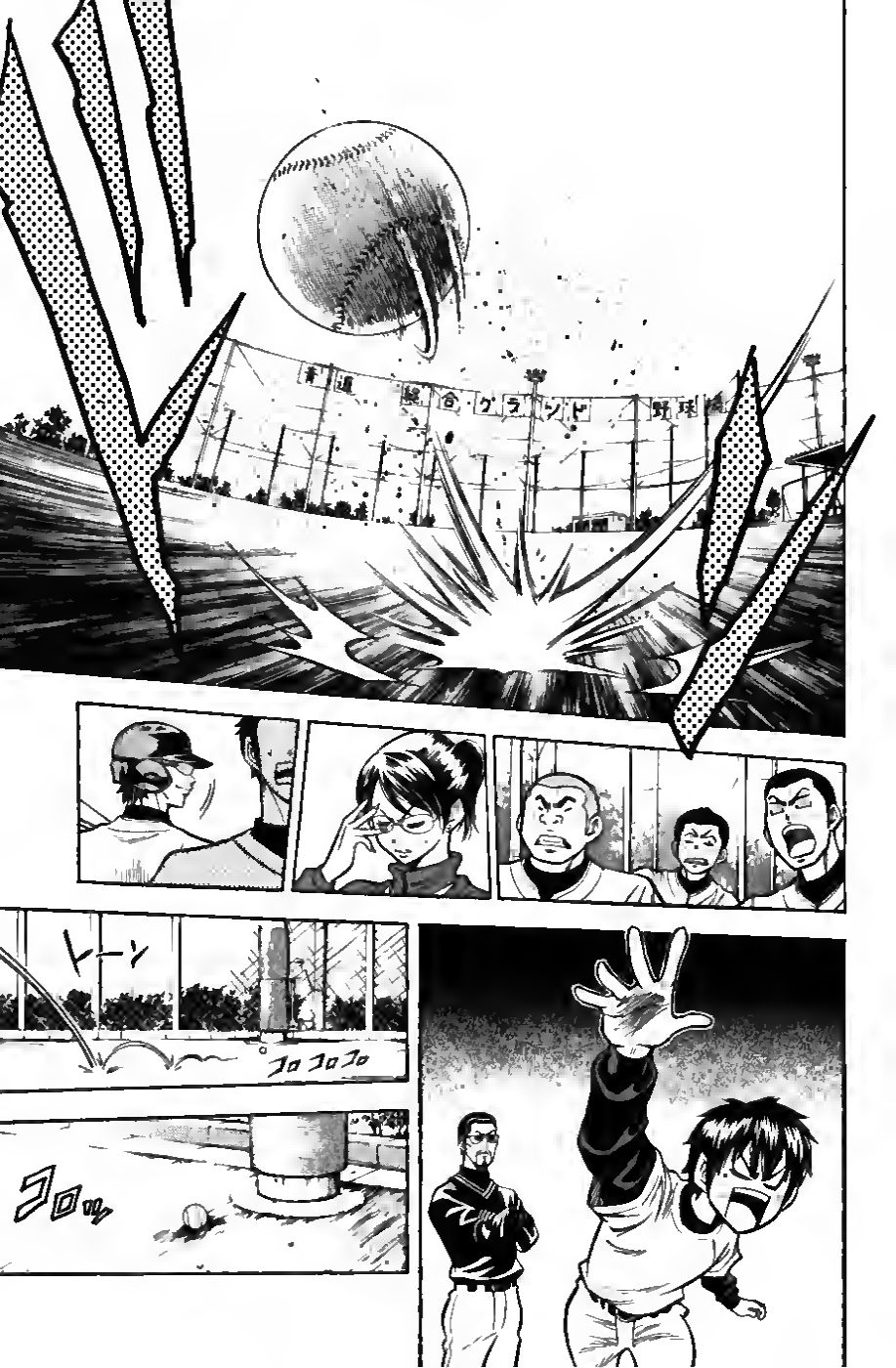
もはぁ～

GAH... ARE YOU STILL MOPING AROUND?!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE HERE WHO COULDN'T BE PITCHERS EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO...
BUT THEY STILL WORK HARD IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS!!

AS LONG AS YOU DEFY THE COACH, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GET A CHANCE...
AND HE'S NEVER GOING TO LET YOU PRACTICE, EITHER!!

GRAH!!
!
WHOA! LOOK AT IT FLY!!
GO!!
ISN'T IT GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE FENCE?!

EH?
UH... WAI-
AAH!!
WHY IS IT CURVING?!


総合グラウンド
トーン
コロコロコ
コロ…

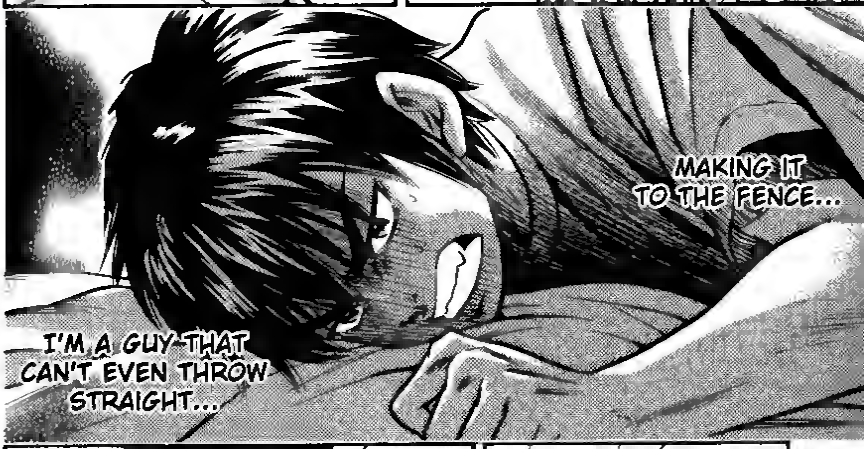
B
HEH...
HA...
B
AHAHA! WHAT DOES THIS GUY THINK HE'S DOING?!
HE JUST THREW A CURVE!
EVEN IF IT CURVED, DIDN'T IT GET TO THE FENCE JUST NOW?!
HE SCREWED UP AT A CRUCIAL TIME LIKE THIS?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
I GUESS THAT'S YOUR ANSWER.

AS YOU PROMISED...
GIVE UP ON BEING A PITCHER NOW!
EH?!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO PRACTICE.
IF YOU'RE FREE, GO RUN!!
HEY, WAIT... THAT WAS...
AHAHA!! I WAS LAUGHING SO HARD THEN...
WHAT KIND OF PLACE HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING BASEBALL AT?!

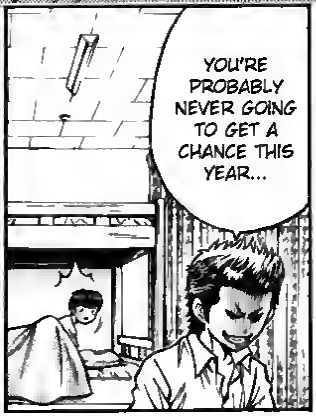
WHO'S TRYING TO BE POPULAR... I THREW A CURVE...
SHUT UP...

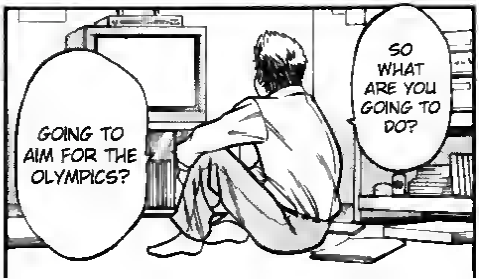
GOD...! THAT'S SO PATHETIC...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE MADE IT WITH A CURVE!!
RATHER THAN RECORDS, YOU WERE TRYING TO BE POPULAR, HUH?
AHAHA!


MAKING IT TO THE FENCE...
I'M A GUY THAT CAN'T EVEN THROW STRAIGHT...

HEHE... AND YOU'LL BE RUNNING ALL ALONE EVERY DAY.
ALL OF THE OTHER FIRST-YEARS WILL SLOWLY MAKE THEIR DEBUTS...


YOU'RE PROBABLY NEVER GOING TO GET A CHANCE THIS YEAR...


GOING TO AIM FOR THE OLYMPICS?
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

AS A MARATHON RUNNER?
HAHAHA!
I'M JUST KIDDING...
IF THIS IS YOUR DETERMINATION, THEN I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER FOR YOU NOW!
AS IF A GUY LIKE YOU COULD MAKE IT TO THE OLYMPICS!
SHUT UP!! ALL YOU DO IS PLAY VIDEO GAMES!
I WAS LATE BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING WITH YOU ALL NIGHT!
GRAH!! I'M NOT GOING TO BE A JOKE!!
OH? YOU WANNA GO AT IT? C'MERE!!
NO MATTER HOW MANY OF YOU LAUGH ABOUT IT, I'VE GOT GOOD POINTS AND BAD POINTS!
EH?!

AGH!
IS HE NOGUEIRA OR SOMETHING?!
GRR!!
NO MOUTHING OFF AT YOUR SUPERIORS!
HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT NATURALLY CURVING BALL?
COULD HIS BODY...
LET GO!!
HUH? HE'S NOT HURTING?
I'VE GOT HIM PRETTY TIGHTLY...

WELL..
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE DEPRESSED...
GRRR... BULLYING AND ABUSE...
I'M GONNA SUE
STOP CRYING... I TOOK IT EASY ON YOUR MAIN ARM...
EH?
WELL, TWO YEARS...
BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT THREE YEARS...
LATELY... MASUKO'S BEEN COMING HOME LATE, YEAH?
HE'S A SENIOR RIGHT NOW... AFTER THIS, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR HIM.
SO RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY SWINGING A BAT...

THERE'S A LOT OF COMPETITION FOR THIRD...
AT THE LAST GAME... JUST ONE...

B.R.M.G

HE MADE JUST ONE ERROR...
AND HE WAS REMOVED FROM THE REGULAR LINEUP.
ハハ
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THERE ARE ONLY NINE POSITIONS AND CLOSE TO A HUNDRED PLAYERS, SO WE HAVE TO WORK FOR THEM...
EVERYONE COMES HERE THINKING THAT.
I WANT TO BE THE ACE... I WANT TO BAT CLEANUP...
I WANT TO BE A REGULAR AND PLAY IN A GAME...
THE FITTEST MAKE IT AND...
EVERYONE ELSE CAN ONLY WAIT FOR THE NEXT CHANCE.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THE PRESSURE.
ROCK... SCIS...
SSS... ORS...
AHAHA!
...

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET THAT WORKED UP, I'M GOING TO KICK YOU OUT...
GO SLEEP OUTSIDE...
.. AND FREEZE TO DEATH!!
B.R.M
BLACK REBEL M.C

GOOD MORNING!!
GOOD MORNING, SIR!!
-ING!
GOOD MORNING, COACH!!
GOOD MORNING!
TODAY'S THE SEMESTER OPENING CEREMONY, SO WE'LL HAVE A LIGHT PRACTICE.
YES, SIR!!
COACH KATAOKA..

DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO MAKE THAT BOY GIVE UP ON BEING A PITCHER?
SO JUDGING HIM NOW IS A BIT PREMATURE...
HE'S JUST JOINED THE TEAM, SO WE DON'T KNOW HIS ABILITY..
...
PLUS, I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YOU TO YOU ABOUT IT, BUT...
THE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT WHO STRUCK OUT AZUMA, WHO JUST GRADUATED AND WENT PRO.

SA
SAWAMURA

"SO PLEASE LET ME COME EARLIER THAN EVERYONE ELSE TO RUN."
HE SAID, "I'M NOT AT A LEVEL WHERE I CAN JOIN PRACTICE YET."
SORRY, COACH... EARLIER, THAT GUY...
....
HM?
I WON'T LET HIM JOIN PRACTICE AS A PITCHER YET.
BUT... A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.
HOW EXACTLY CAN HE THROW THAT KIND OF STRANGE PITCH ALMOST 90 METERS...?
HMM.

SO UNTIL THE SUN SETS... I'LL HAVE HIM RUN, RUN, AND RUN SOME MORE!
青道
クス...
"YET," HUH...

Ace of the Diamond

Wait For Me!

第7話／待ってろよ！

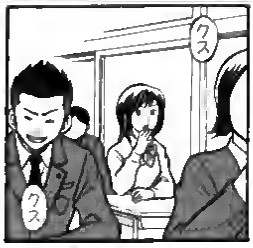
SO? HAVE YOU PICKED OUT ANY OF THIS YEAR'S NEW STUDENTS?
SEEMS LIKE A GOOD CROP THIS YEAR!
MAYBE TOUJOU OR KANEMARU FROM MATSUGATA SENIOR....
FROM NISHIURA, THERE'S TAKATSU.
THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S ONE MORE...
はわわ
WHOA!! HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU DO-
GEEZ...
YOU AGAIN, HARUNO!?

I'M... I'M SORRY...
Yoshikawa Haruno (First Year)
WE'RE FINE HERE, SO GO MAKE SOME DRINKS!
PLEASE DON'T GOOF OFF AT WORK!
GEEZ.. SHE'S SUCH A PAIN—
...

LIKE THIS...
THE WORK DONE BY THE WATER'S SURFACE
I BECAME A MANAGER FOR THE BASEBALL TEAM LIKE I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO, BUT...
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THE SEMESTER STARTED..
HEY!! YOU AGAIN?!
I'LL ONLY BE HANGING AROUND LIKE A NUISANCE...
THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME...
AGAIN?!
THE OTHERS ONLY GET MAD AT ME...
THE PLAYERS ARE ALL SCARY...

しばしば
IS MY CLASS THAT BORING, SAWAMURA?!

THEY ALWAYS MAKE HIM RUN AROUND THE GROUNDS ALONE...
HIM...


クス
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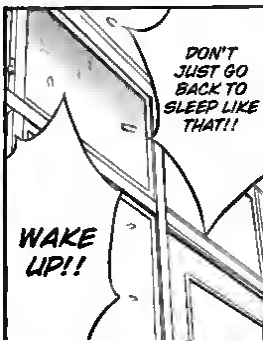
HE'S ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.
PLUS, HE WAS SCOUTED BY THE SCHOOL.

HAHA... IT'S NO USE.

ﾘﾘﾘﾝ


DON'T JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP LIKE THAT!!
WAKE UP!!

SEEMS LIKE PRACTICE IS REALLY HARD!
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
ISN'T OUR BASEBALL TEAM REALLY FAMOUS?
WHAT..?!
SO LISARN UP!!
WHAT ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION TO!? I'M TRYING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS STUDENT...
LAZY IDIOT! I'M NOT GOING TO IGNARE THIS EVEN IF YOU ARE IN THE BASEBALL TEAM!
UH, WHAT KIND OF ∫ ACCENT IS THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YEAH!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WHAT?
SIR... HE'S NOT A MEMBER OF THE TEAM.
HAHA..
SO STRICT!

THEY HAVEN'T APPROVED HIS JOINING THE TEAM, SO RIGHT NOW HE'S JUST AN OBSERVER.
SO PLEASE DON'T GROUP HIM WITH US.
!
WHAT'S THAT?
HE WAS SCOUTED AND HE'S AN OBSERVER?
I DON'T GET IT...
YEAH... WHAT'S AN OBSERVER, ANYWAY?
BUT THAT'S KIND OF PATHETIC...
HEH.

I'LL..
RIGHT NOW... I HAVEN'T BEEN APPROVED BY ANYONE YET, BUT...
DON'T SAY I'M PATHETIC OR ANYTHING!!
I'LL BE THE GUY THAT WEARS THE BASEBALL TEAM'S ACE NUMBER!
LOOK CLOSELY!
...

HAHAHA! WHAT'S THIS GUY SAYING?!
SO PASSIONATE! IS HE THE HOT-BLOODED TYPE?
THIS GUY'S SERIOUS!!
WHAT'S HE DOING, ANNOUNCING IT TO US?!

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT, OLD FART?!
SHUT UP, I'M STILL...
AH!

WATCH OUT... IT'S ALREADY ENDING FOR YOU.
HEH. THE ACE?

アロロ
・・・・

アロロ
ちくしょー

COMPARED TO THOSE TWO, THE SPRING TOURNAMENT DOESN'T MEAN AS MUCH...
THE FALL TOURNAMENT CONFIRMS THE SELECTION, THEN THERE'S THE FINAL SELECTION IN THE SUMMER...
YOU GET IT, GUYS?

WE'RE GOING TO RETURN THAT SHAME TO THEM TEN TIMES OVER!
AND TODAY'S OPPONENT IS ICHIDAISAN HIGH, WHOM WE LOST TO IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT!
YES, SIR!!
YEAH! LET'S GO AS USUAL, GUYS.

THE KING, SEIDOU!!
WHO ARE WE?
THE ONES WHO LOVE BASEBALL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE-
SEIDOU!!
SEIDOU!!
THE ONES WHO SHED MORE TEARS THAN ANYONE ELSE-
SEIDOU!!
THE ONES WHO SWEAT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE-
WITH OUR SCHOOL'S PRIDE, IN OUR HEARTS WE AIM FOR JUST ONE THING-
OWNING THE NATIONALS!
ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT?!

LET'S GO!!
A-
AMAZING...
THEIR AURA IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
SO COOL!
I'VE SEEN THAT CHEER ON TV AND I'VE REALLY WANTED TO DO IT...
MAN, I WANT TO JOIN THEM SOON, TOO!
青道

青道
青道
青道
青道
YEAH!!
IF YOU WANT TO WATCH THE GAME, GET ON THE BUS!!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S HEAD OUT TO THE FIELD NOW!
……

WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COME WATCH US PLAY?
EVEN IF IT'S JUST OBSERVATION, WON'T YOU COME WATCH US PLAY?
I'LL STAY BEHIND...
...
MASUKO'S JUST A SUB BUT

EVEN WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS OFF, I HAVE TO WORK...
SINCE I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU GUYS....
THAT'S PRETTY CRUEL, BUT
WORK HARD!!
ポー
HE'S GOT A LOT OF PRIDE... HEADING STRAIGHT FOR HIS GOAL LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST HIS PERSONALITY... HE SEEMS SUITED TO BE THE ACE.
青道

ドゴ!!!
ブロロロロ
AH!
LOOK OUT!!
WHY'S A TIRE...
?
I'M SO SORRY... ARE YOU OKAY?
I DID IT AGAIN...
I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED THE OTHER DAY...
I...
HUH?
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU WERE RUNNING ALONE AGAIN TODAY...
I... UM-

I REALLY LIKE PEOPLE WHO ARE STUPID LIKE THAT!!
EVEN THOUGH YOU GOT LAUGHED AT, STATING YOUR GOAL IN FRONT OF EVERYONE...
THE WAY YOU LOOKED!!
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE A COOL MANAGER LIKE THE OTHERS...
I'M CLUMSY AND EVERYONE GETS MAD AT ME A LOT...
THE TRUTH IS... I'M REALLY CONFUSED ABOUT BEING A MANAGER...
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO...
...SUPPORT THE PLAYERS WHO'RE WORKING THEIR HARDEST TO REACH THEIR GOALS.
SO... HERE.

GOOD LUCK BECOMING THE ACE!
!
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU...
I WAS REALLY TIRED OF RUNNING, BUT...
HA...
THANK YOU!! I'LL USE IT WELL!!
HAHAHA!

HUH?
HEH, HEH...
BUT IF I WANT TO BE THE ACE...
THIS KIND OF TINY TIRE JUST ISN'T ENOUGH!

WOW, SO COOL..
んが～
ズザザ...
AH!
いた
OH! SORRY!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARUNO?
LET'S GO TO THE GAME!!
わはははは
GET ONE MORE AND I'LL DOUBLE UP!!
WHAT?! IS THAT REALLY OKAY?

NO RUSH...
LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD.
WAIT FOR ME...
BECAUSE I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO CLIMB UP TO WHERE YOU ARE!!

Ace of the Diamond

TOKYO SPRING TOURNAMENT QUARTERFINALS
ダイヤのA
SO NOW LET'S GO WITH A FAST INSIDE SLIDER!
WE PUT TWO PITCHES OUTSIDE AS A FEINT...
THE COUNT'S 2-1...
YEAH! JUST WHAT I ORDERED!

ダイヤのA
エース
第8話／同じタイプ？
The Same Type?
TOKYO
2

WHOA!! IT WENT OUT!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A HOME RUN OUT OF THE BLUE WITH THE BASES LOADED!!
A-AMAZING!! HE HIT AN INSIDE SLIDER THAT FAR?!
HAHA, I GOT IT...
ISN'T HE THE MIYUKI KAZUYA?
ISN'T HE STILL A SECOND-YEAR?
AND HE'S THE SIXTH BATTER... THEIR LINEUP IS FRIGHTENING!

NO... NO WAY...
YOU HIT MANAKA'S BEST PITCH...
AND NOW HE'S AS WHITE AS A SHEET.
GOTTEN A BIT FULL OF YOURSELF, HITTING IT ALL OF A SUDDEN LIKE THAT, HUH?
IT WAS JUST LUCK. I WON'T DO AS WELL NEXT TIME...
SHUT UP!
COME ON, HITTING A HOME RUN ON A LUCKY SHOT?!
STOP BEING SARCASTIC!

ICHIDAISAN HIGH, SELECTED FOR THE BEST EIGHT, IS BEING COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL!
HE'S GIVEN UP EIGHT RUNS THIS INNING!
OHHH! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ICHIDAI'S MANAKA?!
MAYBE IT'S SHOCK FROM THE HOME RUN, BUT HE IS UNABLE TO STOP SEIDOU'S BATTERS!!

I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED A BALL LATELY. SO I'VE BEEN FEELING STRESSED...
IT'S FINE TO SAY I'M STAYING HERE AND PRACTICING, BUT...
GRR. THEY'RE ALL AT THE GAME RIGHT NOW...
GOD...
HANG ON...
I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE RIGHT NOW, SO...

AHAHA!
SO...!
MAN, IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO REALIZE THIS!
I CAN USE A BAT AND BALL ALL I WANT WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT MR. FOUR-EYES!
HAHAHA!
HA...
BUT...
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO PLAY CATCH WITH!!
THIS IS IT!! IT'S NOT REALLY BASEBALL WITHOUT THESE!!
OH, MAN! IT'S LIKE A TREASURE CHEST OF BASEBALLS!
I CAN FINALLY PLAY BASEBALL AGAIN WITH THESE!!

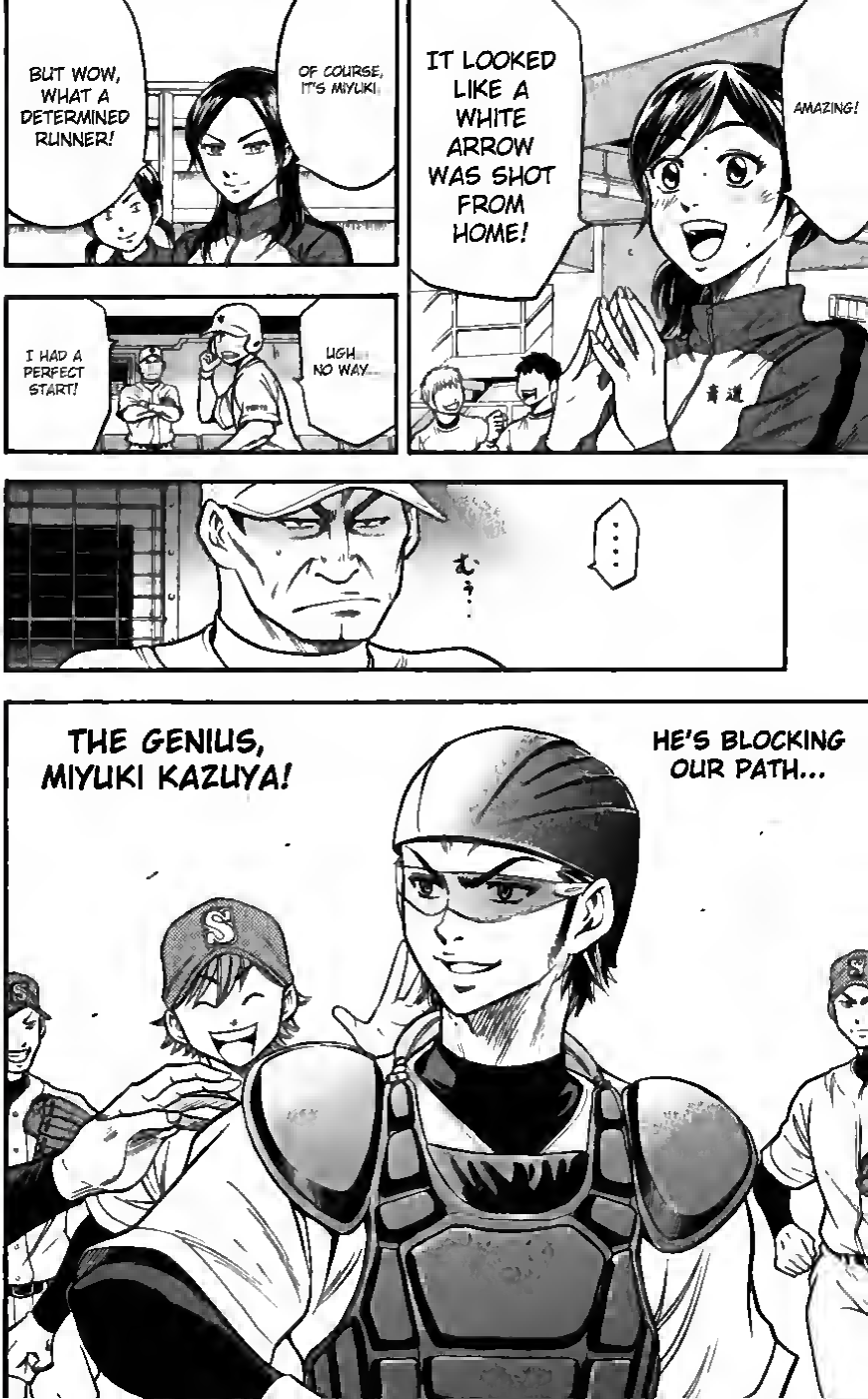
AUGH!!
HIGH-SPEED BATTING!
YAAAY!!
YEAH!
AHAHA! THROW...!
AND CATCH!
HEH, THROWING BY MYSELF AND CATCHING BY MYSELF...
HAHAHA!
HEY... IS THAT FUN?
AN IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER IS TO THROW IT HIGH!

IF YOU WANT SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH, HOW ABOUT ME?
SINCE YOU LOOK KIND OF PATHETIC
Furuya Satoru (First Year)
!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?!
I MEAN, DID YOU SEE ALL OF THAT?
YEAH... I SAW IT ALL.

I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN GAMES I'M NOT PLAYING IN.
WELL, HONESTLY...
THE BUS LEFT WHILE I WAS IN THE BATHROOM...
AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PAIN TO GO AFTER IT, SO...
HUH?
HM? IF YOU STAYED BEHIND, THEN...
YOU'RE THE SAME TYPE AS ME?
...

HE'S RUNNING FOR IT!
THROW TO SECOND!
AH!

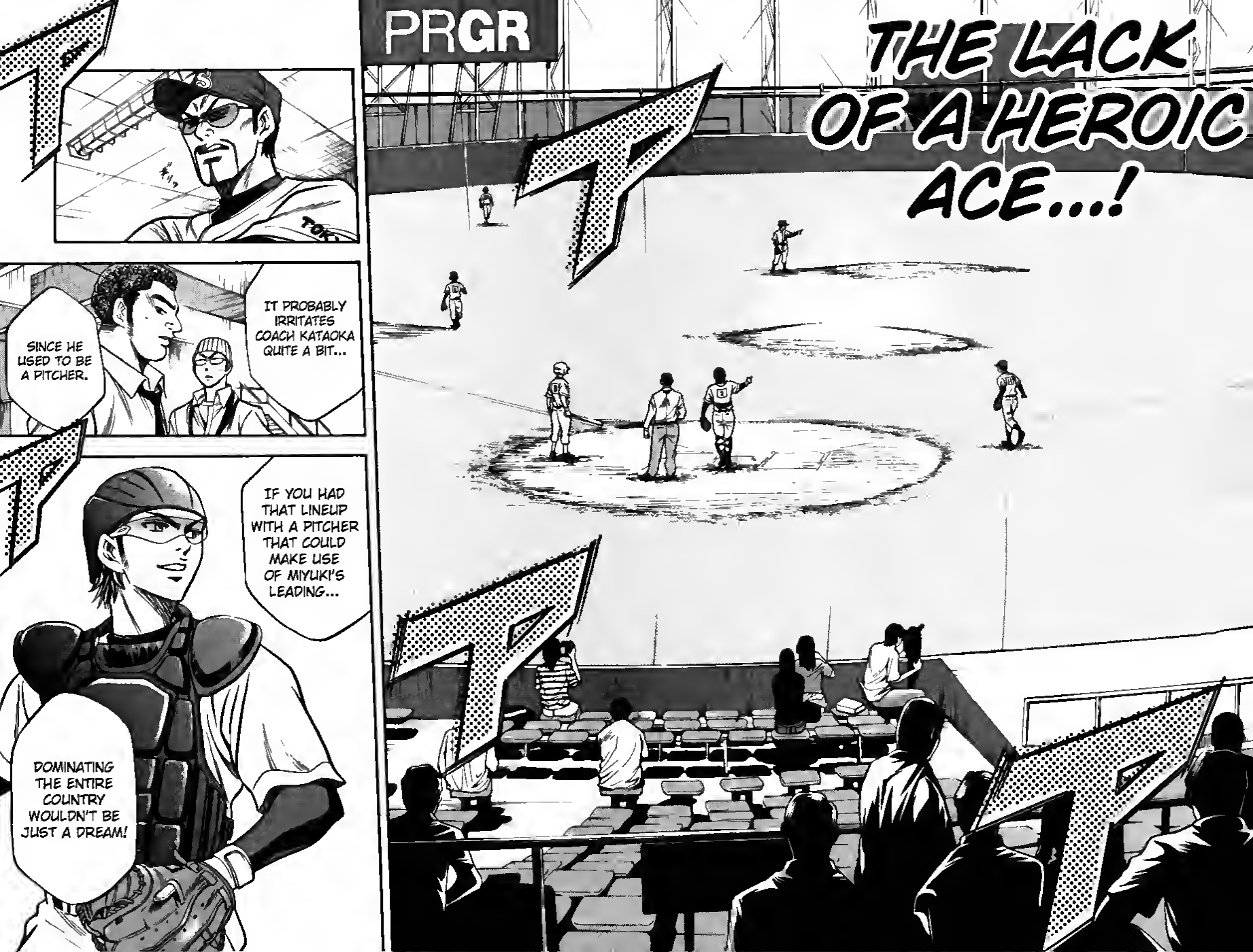
WOW...
OUT! NICE RUN.
HE GOT THE GUY STEALING...
THAT CATCHER HAS AMAZING SHOULDERS!
AND HE DIDN'T EVEN LET THE GUY SLIDE!!
SEIDOU!!
SEIDOU!!
SEIDOU!!


BUT WOW, WHAT A DETERMINED RUNNER!
OF COURSE, IT'S MIYUKI.
IT LOOKED LIKE A WHITE ARROW WAS SHOT FROM HOME!
AMAZING!
I HAD A PERFECT START!
UGH... NO WAY...
むぅ…
……
THE GENIUS, MIYUKI KAZUYA!
HE'S BLOCKING OUR PATH...

IN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO'S BEEN BROUGHT UP AS A CATCHER FOR TWO YEARS THAT HAS A NATURAL FEEL FOR BASEBALL, UNLIKE MOST STUDENTS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO US, MIYUKI!?
COACH!
...
...
YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE THROWING FOUR BALLS LIKE THAT... GIVING HIM EASY ONES OVER AND OVER.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE LIKE THAT, ARE YOU, TANBA?!

TANBA...
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THESE LAST TWO YEARS?
YES, SIR!!
GET OUT. KAWAKAMI!
YOU'RE PITCHING NEXT.
...
ALL RIGHT, THEIR PITCHER IS OUT OF STAMINA NOW!
YES, SIR!!
...
SO LET'S FINISH THIS NOW!!

チーム 一 二 三 四 五
青 8 1 0 2
市 1 3 0 4
THEY'VE HAD AN AMAZING RALLY.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
HM...
THEY'VE TAKEN QUITE A FEW POINTS THIS GAME.
YEAH...
MUCH LIKE LAST YEAR'S TEAM, WHICH WAS FORMED AROUND THE MONSTER AZUMA KIYOKUNI...
SEIDOU'S LINEUP THIS YEAR ALSO HAS AN EXPLOSIVE POWER THAT'S NATIONAL-LEVEL.
BUT THEY HAVE A PROBLEM THIS YEAR AS WELL...


PRGR
THE LACK OF A HEROIC ACE...!
SINCE HE USED TO BE A PITCHER.
IT PROBABLY IRRITATES COACH KATAOKA QUITE A BIT...
IF YOU HAD THAT LINEUP WITH A PITCHER THAT COULD MAKE USE OF MIYUKI'S LEADING...
DOMINATING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WOULDN'T BE JUST A DREAM!

THIS FEELS GREAT!!
AHAHA!
PLAYING CATCH IS REALLY GREAT!
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN...
WITHOUT A BALL, IT'S JUST NOT BASEBALL!

IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I'VE THROWN A BALL, SO MY SHOULDERS FEEL REALLY LIGHT!
I FEEL LIKE I COULD THROW ALL THE WAY TO THE FENCE RIGHT NOW!!
HAHA... YEAH, I AM!
EH?
SEEMS LIKE FUN FOR YOU, BUT IT'S KIND OF NASTY...
...
THE ONES YOU THROW PROPERLY...
YOUR PITCHES ARE KIND OF NASTY...

NAST-

I'M JUST THROWING NORMALLY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NASTY?!"
Getting hit by a hardball really hurts!

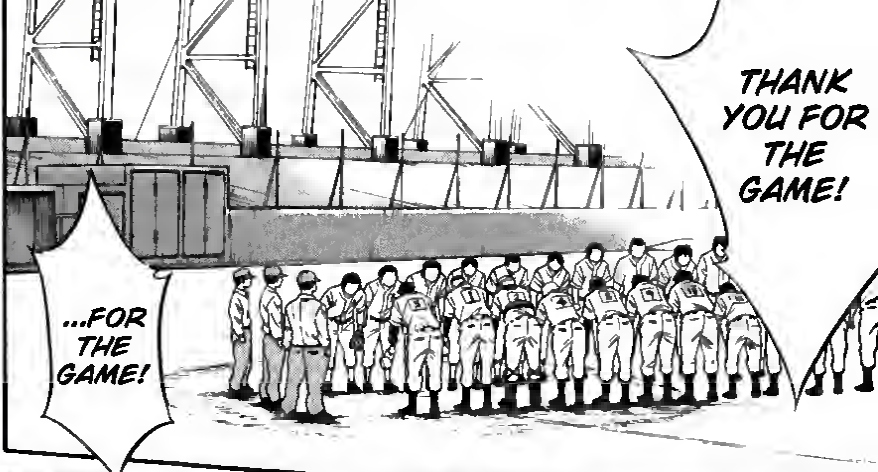
OH, SORRY

I MEAN THAT IT'S CURVING ALL OVER...
SO IT'S HARD TO CATCH.

YEAH... EVERYONE AT AKAGI AVOIDED PLAYING CATCH WITH ME, TOO...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR PITCHES ARE GOING, SO IT'S SCARY!
THROW SLOWLY...
BUT IF IT'S HARD TO CATCH, THEN IT'S HARD TO HIT...
SO... YOU WANT TO BE A PITCHER?
はははっ
YEAH, SURE!!
MY SHOULDERS HAVE WARMED UP A BIT, SO...
IS IT OKAY IF I THROW IT HARD?
HUH?
WHAT DID HE JUST
HUH... YOU'RE A REALLY NICE GUY.

ゴ"
HUH?


THANK YOU FOR THE GAME!
...FOR THE GAME!

IF THEY PLAY THIS WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THE SUMMER ELIMINATION WILL ALSO BE CRITICAL.
THOUGH THE LINEUP IS A MATTER OF CHANCE..
16
10

SO THEY WON...

I THINK IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE TO SEIZE THIS CHANCE AND IMPROVE THE TEAM...
COACH... TANBA, OUR CURRENT ACE, SEEMS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAK-DOWN.

BUT...

青道

THERE ARE ONLY THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT...
SO WE NEED TO HURRY AND PREPARE THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FOR THE PITCHING STAFF.
...
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ドッ
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ドッ
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オ

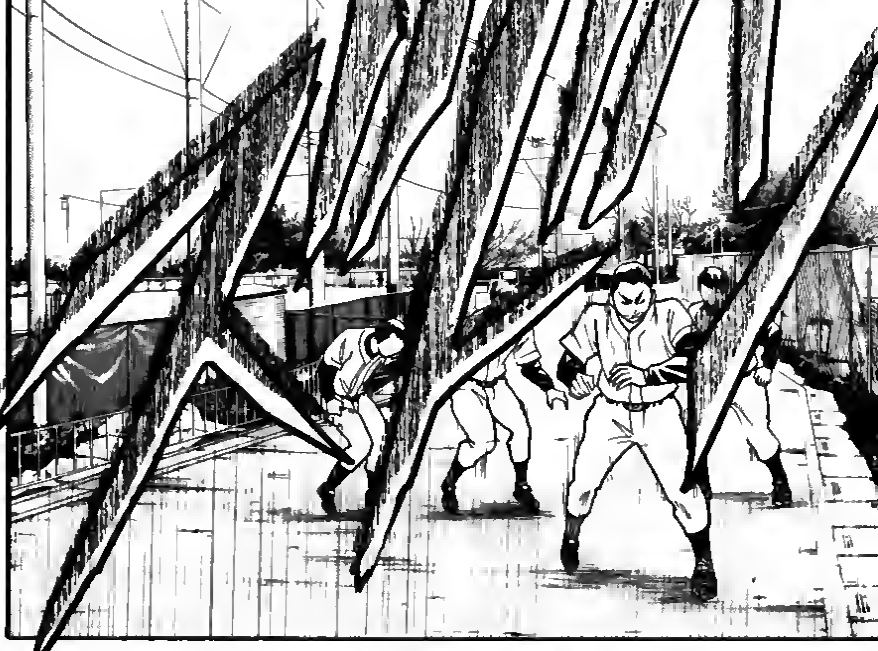
SORRY... I THREW IT TOO HARD.
NOBODY IN HOKKAIDO COULD CATCH FOR ME...

I SAW AN ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE...
AND I APPLIED TO *THIS* SCHOOL.
IF IT'S HIM...
THEN HE CAN CATCH THE PITCHES I THROW AT FULL POWER.
THIS WAS...
YEAH...

THIS WAS WHEN THE FIERCE STRUGGLE FOR THE ACE POSITION BEGAN...
...WHEN I MET MY RIVAL, FURUYA SATORU.

Ace of the Diamond

HEY... DID YOU HEAR?
IT SEEMS LIKE TANBA HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AS ACE...
NO WAY! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
ダイヤのA
THAT'S ROUGH... HE PITCHED FOR A LONG TIME IN THE LAST GAME, DIDN'T HE?
RELIEVING HIM LIKE THAT WHEN THERE ARE ONLY THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
MAYBE THERE'LL BE A FIGHT FOR THE ACE POSITION?
HM...
HEH... NOW OUR CHANCE HAS COME AROUND...



.....
WHOA

第9話／気まずい時間
An Unpleasant Time

WHAT WAS THAT. JUST NOW?
IS HE REALLY A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT?
THE CATCHER'S MITT WAS COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY!
……

FURUYA SATORU, FROM TOMAKOMAI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN HOKKAIDO.

IT SEEMS LIKE HE TOOK THE NORMAL ENTRANCE EXAM JUST TO COME TO SEIDOU.
AMONG THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS THIS YEAR, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ABLE TO THROW 120 METERS.
O-ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY METERS!?

HAHA... THIS KIND OF KID CAME THROUGH GENERAL ADMISSIONS?
IS IT OVER NOW?
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL IS INTERESTING BECAUSE OF KIDS LIKE THIS!
ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS.
HUH?
I WANT TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYONE I CAN USE IN A REAL GAME!
...

EVEN THOUGH THAT GUY'S THE SAME YEAR AS ME...
HE'S ALREADY SCREWING AROUND IN THE BULLPEN.
MANAGER! BRING ME SOME TIRES!
COMING UP!!
I NEED TO PRACTICE SO I CAN BE THE ACE!!
GAH!! I CAN'T BE LIKE THIS!
WOW...! HE'S GONE UP TO THREE TIRES!!
ふんがぁ～
ズズズズ
ALL RIGHT! NOW I'M SET!!

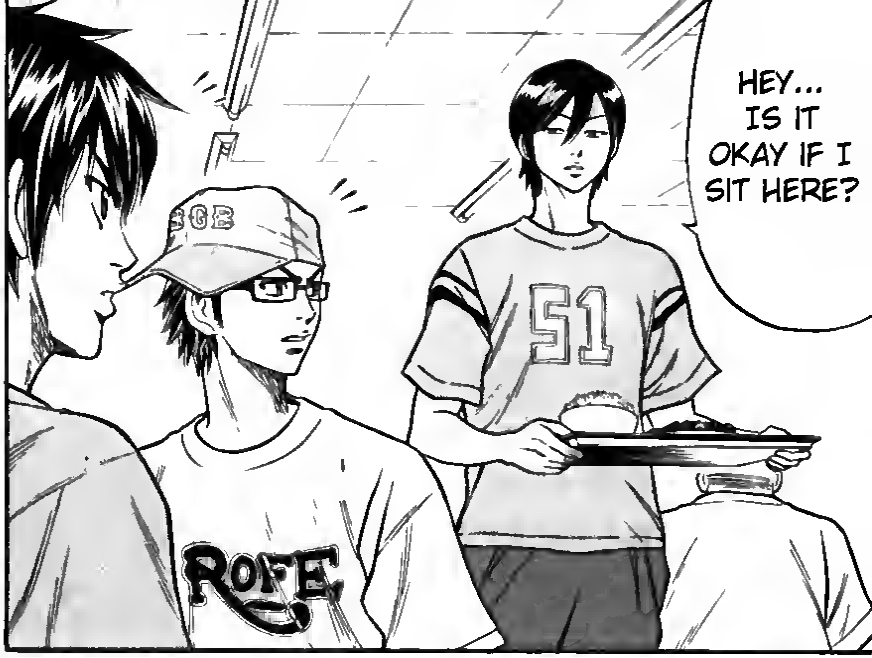
...ACE OF THE TIREMEN?
WAY TOO MUCH...!
IT KIND OF SEEMS LIKE HE'S ALREADY BECOME...
青心寮
SECON-
BURP PLEASE!
HERE YOU GO!
TRIM

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'RE EATING A TON!
むっ
YOU WERE PUKING ALL OVER THE PLACE ON YOUR FIRST DAY...
EAT A BIT SLOWER... THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU.
SHUT UP!!
IT'S NICE THAT KIDS GROW UP SO QUICKLY, HUH?
EVERYONE'S PRETTY QUIET... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HM?
TETA

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?
THE FIRST-YEARS ARE GOING TO HAVE A GAME WITH THE SECOND- AND THIRD-YEARS TOMORROW.

BASICALLY, FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO FOCUS ON JUST BUILDING UP THEIR STRENGTH, SO...
THEY'RE NOT REALLY PROMOTED TO THE REGULAR TEAM.
EXCEPT FOR ME! ♪
BUT WITH THIS GAME, THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE...

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
WHAT ABOUT ME, DO I GET TO PLAY?!
I'M JUST A STUDENT, NOT THE COACH...
DO IT!


HEY... IS IT OKAY IF I SIT HERE?
51
ROFE

AH...

WHY ARE YOU SITTING HERE?!
THERE'S SPACE OVER THERE!!
51

EXCUSE ME.
51

MIYUKI...
I DON'T FEEL LIKE ANYONE HERE WILL BE ABLE TO HIT MY PITCHES TOMORROW.
IF I'M RIGHT, WILL YOU BE MY CATCHER?
WHA-?!

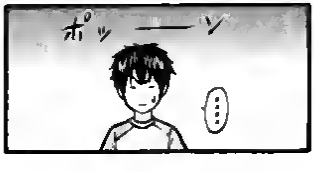
HEY, ROOKIE...

51

YOU'RE SURE RUNNING OFF AT THE MOUTH FOR SOMEONE WHO'S JUST GOTTEN OUT OF JUNIOR HIGH.
...!
YOU'RE SAYING NOBODY'LL HIT YOUR PITCHES?
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE WHERE YOU ARE?
ISN'T THIS GUY A RIOT?!
...
YOU CAN SAY YOU WANT HIM TO CATCH FOR YOU AFTER YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING.

TA
TANBA.

ENOUGH WITH ALL THE BULL!!
WE'LL WORK THIS OUT THROUGH BASEBALL.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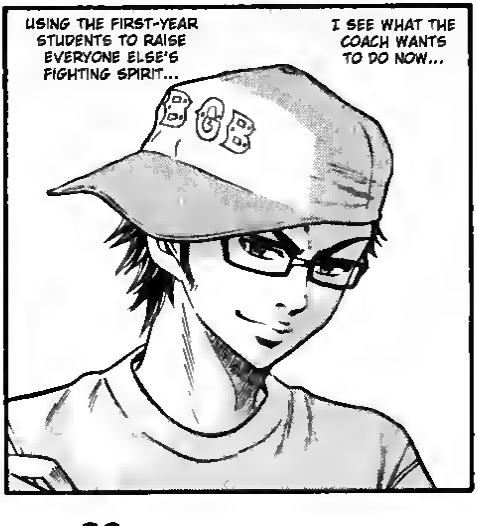
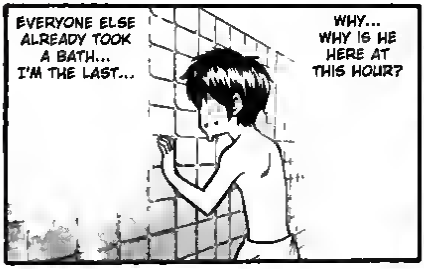

USING THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TO RAISE EVERYONE ELSE'S FIGHTING SPIRIT...
I SEE WHAT THE COACH WANTS TO DO NOW...
OB

HOW COME I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS?!
ENOUGH ALREADY!! I'M IN THE SAME YEAR!
GOD!!
HAS FOUR-EYES COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN I EXIST?!
T.F.O.A
ARE YOU GOING TO SCARE YOUR OPPONENTS BY JUST SHOWING YOUR FACE?!
I GOT IT!! FOUR-EYES IS PROBABLY...
...A YAKUZA!

どりどーん


EVERYONE ELSE ALREADY TOOK A BATH... I'M THE LAST...
WHY... WHY IS HE HERE AT THIS HOUR?

キャアアアアアア

HE DEFINITELY HEARD ME...!!!
HE HEARD ME...
わしゃ
わしゃ
JUST HURRY UP AND KILL ME...
WAH...
E-EXCUSE ME

HE'S HERE, AT THE ONLY TIME I CAN RELAX...
WAAAH...
HEY... IT'S THE BATH, HE SHOULD TAKE THOSE OFF!!
HEY.
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE YOU BEEN DRAGGING THOSE TIRES?
はは、
MY GROWTH IS JUST ASTONISHING!!
WELL, I THINK I'LL MOVE UP TO FOUR TIRES SOON!
INNER EIJUN
...
THANKS TO YOU!!
UM... THREE WEEKS, MAYBE.
HM... WHEN I PLAYED REGULARLY, I DRAGGED TRUCK TIRES...

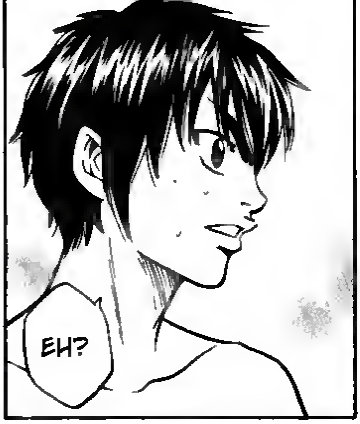
HEY... YOU HAVEN'T COME TO A SINGLE ONE OF OUR GAMES YET.
HOW COME?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IF HE GETS EVEN MORE PISSED AT ME?
OH, MAN... IS HE PISSED?
!
IT'S FINE, JUST TELL ME WHY!

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE ELSE...
STANDING ON THE MOUND!
WHAT?
I BETRAYED MY OLD FRIENDS TO BE ABLE TO TEST MY OWN STRENGTH.
WOULD I REALLY BE ABLE TO CHEER FOR SOMEONE ELSE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART?
.....

IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO THAT.
I THINK THAT IF I CAN'T CHEER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, IT'S BETTER NOT TO GO.

……
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO ANYONE IN THAT!!
I CAME HERE TO BE THE ACE!
ザッパァア
HEH…
HEH… HAHAHA!!

KID...
YOUR FEELINGS ARE LIKE THOSE OF A MAGNIFICENT ACE'S!
HE'S A HORSE!
HM.
THAT FEELING OF NOT WANTING TO GIVE THE MOUND UP TO ANYONE AT ALL...
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THE SECOND- AND THIRD-YEARS ARE MISSING RIGHT NOW...


EH?

COME TO THE FIELD TOMORROW AND BRING YOUR GLOVE.

THANKS TO THAT STUPIDLY HONEST REPLY...
YOU'RE GETTING ONE FINAL CHANCE.

Ace of the Diamond

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B
MAN, I'M GETTING SO NERVOUS.
I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT!
JUST LIKE ALWAYS... THE CROWDS ARE PRETTY AMAZING ON SUNDAYS.
A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE CAME TO WATCH THE PRACTICE... ALUMNI AND REPORTERS, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO BE PLAYING AGAINST THE UPPERCLASSMEN...
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH SINCE WE JOINED THE TEAM

第10話／激突
The Fierce Battle

THEIR PITCHER PROBLEM MUST BE PRETTY BAD.
...THAT'S PRETTY RARE FOR SEIDOU.
HMM... BEING ABLE TO OBSERVE THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS' STRENGTH THIS EARLY...
YES, SIR!!
YOU GUYS ALL SET?
YES, SIR!!
I'M GOING TO GIVE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU FIRST-YEARS A CHANCE TO PLAY...
SO I WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE READY TO GO OUT AT ANY MOMENT.
WOW... COACH IS GOING TO BE THE UMPIRE?

THANKS TO THAT STUPIDLY HONEST REPLY...
YOU'RE GETTING ONE FINAL CHANCE.

HE SAID "EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU FIRST-YEARS!"

SO THAT WASN'T JUST A DREAM...!

WATCH ME, FOUR-EYES!!
AHAHA!!

HAH... STILL CRYING?

I WON'T LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY!!
I'M GONNA DO THIS!!

YOU CAN FINALLY JOIN THE PRACTICE...
ISN'T THAT NICE?
NO MATTER HOW YOU PITCHED BEFORE.
HAHA... THE MAIN FORCE HAS TODAY OFF.
MM...
PLUS, IF WE WIN THE UPCOMING GAME, THE KANTOU TOURNAMENT WILL BE NEXT..
AREN'T YOU ON THEIR BENCH? WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
SHUT UP!!
!
HAHAHA... YOU'RE STILL 100 YEARS TOO EARLY!
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO PLAY AGAINST YOU...
HEH.

SO... WHEN ARE YOU PITCHING?
WELL... PROBABLY AT THE END, THANKS TO MR. FOUR-EYES...
HAHAHA... WELL, THEN... I'LL GO OUT JUST TO MEET YOU.
AH!!

WHAT'S WRONG, ROOKIE?
IF YOU FALL ON YOUR ASS, YOU CAN'T SWING THE BAT!
WHAT... JUST NOW...
I THOUGHT IT WAS COMING STRAIGHT AT ME...
.....
I'VE... I'VE NEVER SEEN A CURVE LIKE THAT BEFORE!
BUT THEN THE BALL BROKE TO THE SIDE ALL OF THE SUDDEN...
...MISSING MY BODY AND GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE CATCHER'S MITT!

ゴゴ
ゴゴ
フゥ～
YEAH, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS RELIEVED AS THE ACE, A FIRE'S BEEN LIT IN HIM...
TANBA'S GOT SOME NICE SPIRIT!
HE WAS AN EXEMPLARY PITCHER ORIGINALLY...
IF HE CAN PUT THAT GREAT BREAKING CURVE ON A GOOD COURSE...
...THEN A COMEBACK IS DEFINITELY CLOSE!!

UNH!!

YEAH!!
WHOA!
HE JUST STRUCK OUT THREE PEOPLE IN A ROW!
THAT QUIET TANBA JUST SCREAMED!
EVEN IF THE BAT MANAGES TO TOUCH IT, THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO!
LAZY IDIOT...
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE THAT DURING THE REAL THING?

GAH!! AT THIS KIND OF TIME?!
WHAT?! THIS GUY'S SLEEPING!
くかー
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, OF COURSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'VE LEFT THINGS BEHIND AT THEIR JUNIOR HIGHS...
HOWEVER, THE PRIDE THEY'VE BUILT UP SO FAR WILL PROBABLY...
MM... I WAS CERTAINLY AGAINST THEM PLAYING A GAME WITH THE UPPER-CLASSMEN...

ALSO, THOSE WHO CAN'T BRING OUT THEIR STRENGTH AGAINST THESE KINDS OF OVERWHELMING ODDS WILL NEVER BECOME A PART OF OUR MAIN FORCE.
THEY'RE MORE THAN AWARE OF WHAT THEY'RE GETTING INTO.
BUT, SHE'S JUST LIKE COACH KATAOKA WHENEVER IT COMES TO BASEBALL. SHE'S A DEMON.
SHE'S THE DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER
I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST A SCRIMMAGE...?
HEY...
THEY'RE ALL TOTALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS...

IT'S PRETTY IMMATURE..
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T TAKE IT OR ANYTHING.
UGH... I'M GETTING A BIT PISSED NOW...
WELL... LET'S JUST GO DO WHAT WE CAN!
フス・
DOES IT SEEM LIKE THEY'RE BEING IMMATURE?
EH?

OF COURSE, FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WHO'VE JUST JOINED THE TEAM.
...THERE'S NO REAL WAY OF KNOWING HOW FAST THE SENIORS' PITCHERS ARE, OR THAT THEIR BATTING SPEED ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE TRIFLED WITH...
SO FOR THE SENIORS, IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE TO MAKE THE FIRST-YEARS UNDERSTAND THEIR STRENGTH...
ガッ

LAUGH OR CRY, THE NEXT TOURNAMENT IS THE VERY LAST.
THEY HAVE TO GET THEIR UNIFORM NUMBERS AND END IT THERE.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN GO EASY ON SOME FIRST-YEARS!!

ぎゅっ
HAHA...
IT'LL BE PRETTY BAD FOR YOU, TOO...
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE DRIVE TO HOLD BACK UPPERCLASSMEN LIKE THAT, THEN NO MATTER HOW LONG...
...BECOMING THE ACE IS...

WHOA.
OF COURSE IT'S NO GOOD...
BASEBALL ISN'T FOR WATCHING ON THE SIDELINES... IF YOU'RE NOT PLAYING, THEN...
HEH! IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL...
'CUZ THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT ARE THAT GREAT FOR ME TO GO UP AGAINST, ONE AFTER ANOTHER..

I WANT TO STAND ON THE MOUND SOON!
!!
HE'S SOUND ASLEEP!!
THIS GUY...

!!
!
HA... FINALLY..
IT'S FINALLY OVER...

ダイヤのA エース

CHAPTER 11: 3RD-YEAR STUDENT PRIDE

H-HEY... YOU ALL RIGHT?
HERE . A DRINK .
HAH!
HAH

NONE OF OUR BATTERS CAN HANDLE TOJO... WHO'S GONNA STOP HIM .
THIS IS JUST HIS FIRST TIME ON THE MOUND TODAY... AND HE'S ALREADY FALLING APART...
THIS GUY . IS TOJO FROM MATSUKATA SENIOR HIGH THAT MADE IT TO THE BEST 4 AT NATIONALS, RIGHT?

WHAT THE? HEY! WHY SO GLUM EVERYONE!!
THE GAME'S ONLY JUST STARTED!!

GULP

GAS YOURSELVES UP AND GET OUT THERE!!
WE STILL HAVE EIGHT MORE CHANCES TO TAKE THE LEAD!!

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN SCORE A RUN, LET ALONE TAKE THE LEAD, MAN!!
HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING THE GAME AT ALL?
TAKE THE LEAD?

ON DEFENSE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I'VE FELT THIS KIND OF PRESSURE. SHOOT.
RUNNING BASES AS FAST AS A BATTED BALL... SLIDING...
HMMPF
A PERSON LIKE YOU, WHO CAN'T GET IN THE GAME, WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

SFX:WOPAMMM
TAMPA'S ENGINE IS REVVED UP!
WHOOOOA, SIX STRIKEOUTS IN A ROW!!
しっ!
AWESOME! HE'S NOT GONNA LET ANYONE GET A HIT AT ALL!!
IF YOU DON'T TURN THINGS AROUND NOW, IT'LL ONLY GET WORSE.
HAHAHA... THE AGONY. THE AGONY.
WHA...
...

IF YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO GET BEATEN DOWN BY THE ENEMY BEFORE YOU GET TO FIGHT...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RELEASE YOUR TRUE POWER.
GRIP
I WANT TO TRY TO HIT THEM WITH ALL THE POWER THAT I HAVE...
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL....

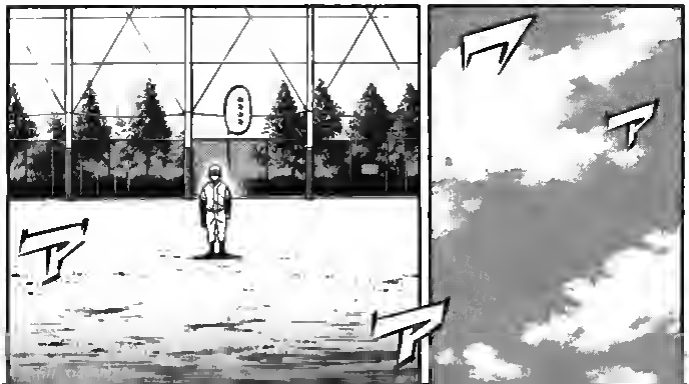
YEAH
YEAH
THIS IDIOT... WHO CARES WHAT A CADET HAS TO SAY...
...
me?
me?
OK, FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS! WE'RE GOING TO SHIFT THE PITCHER AND THE ENTIRE OUTFIELD!!
...
HHNH

IT'S FINE.
YOU'RE ON DEFENSE TOO.

UUHH
UUUHHH??
ICE
TUMBLE TUMBLE
OH...

YEEEESS!!
WAHAHAHA
AT LAST, AT LAST, THE DAY HAS COME!!
MR. HEAD COACH, I APPRECIATE YOUR BOLD DECISION!
I, EI-JUN, WILL MEET YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS WITHOUT FAIL!!
AHH...
THE MOUND I COULD ONLY REACH IN MY DREAMS
WAHAHA. I CAN! I CAN DO IT!
HAHA... WE'VE GOT A LIVELY ONE OVER THERE.
PERHAPS WE CAN EXPECT SOMETHING GREAT FROM THIS GUY
....
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT FIELD!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CRA-P... I WAS AN IDIOT FOR THINKING THAT OL' SUNGLASSES WAS KIND OF A GOOD GUY (REPEATED OVER AND OVER)
GRR
GRR
WHY AM I IN THE OUTFIELD? THEY DIDN'T SAY ONE WORD ABOUT LETTING ME BE THE PITCHER...
HUH?
THE BALL IS COMING! SNAP OUT OF IT!
HEY !!
.....!!
AHH! RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
GGGUH
NUMB-SKULL! BEHIND YOU!
IT'S NOT A SOFT-BALL!!
FOR A BATTED HARDALL, YOU HAVE TO GO OUT FURTHER THAN YOU WOULD EXPE---
FORWARD?
BACK?
HUH?
HUH?
Hooooo

ドスッ
わー

TH..THAT'S EXTREMELY EMBARR-ASSING!!
I MEAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AT SEIDOU DO A JUMP FOR JOY BEFORE!
WOAH... HE'S JUMPING FOR JOY!

DASH

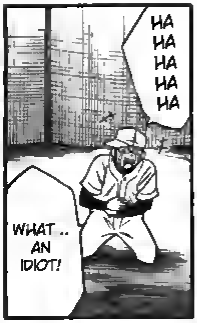
ERK...
CRAP!

HURRY UP AND THROW IT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, A-HOLE !?
GET THE BALL TO THIRD! THE BATTER IS STILL RUNNING!!

IT'S BECAUSE...
I'VE NEVER EVEN PLAYED OUTFIELD ONCE!!!

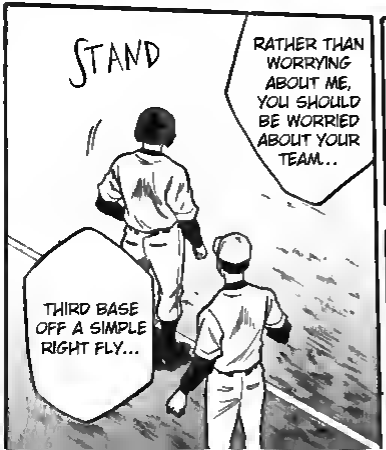
SFX:BYOOOM
SWOOP
PLEASE... IF WE COULD JUST FORGET ABOUT THIS ONE LITTLE MISTAKE...
WHOA... A LASER BEAM!?
GO!

GOHFF
SAFE.
UGH
THE BALL TURNED IN THE...
SWOOP
DIRECTION OF THE RUNNER, HUH...
THAT...


HA HA HA HA HA
WHAT .. AN IDIOT!

SANDLOT BASE-BALL, HUH...

うわぁぁぁ
THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY US FOR LETTING YOU DO A JUMP FOR JOY?!
SERIOUS!! HE AIMED TO HIT THAT RUNNER!!
CRAZY
HORRIBLE!! THERE'S A DEMON ON THE FIRST-YEAR TEAM!!


STAND
RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT ME, YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR TEAM...
THIRD BASE OFF A SIMPLE RIGHT FLY...

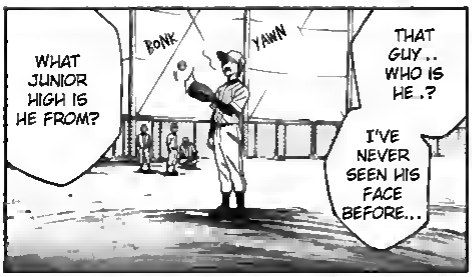
A-ARE YOU OK?

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A HUNDRED MORE RUNS THAN YOU IN THIS GAME, YOU KNOW.
パン
パン
WHA..
...
IN THESE PAST TWO YEARS, WE'VE BEEN BUSTING OUR ASSES AS IF OUR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT..
YOU THINK WE COULD BEAR GIVING UP ANY POSITIONS...
TO ANY OF YOU SPRING CHICKENS FRESH OUT OF JUNIOR HIGH...?

WOAH... IT WON'T STOP!
ARE THESE GUYS REALLY JUST THE RESERVE PLAYERS!?
THIS TEAM IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GO TO NATIONALS THEMSLEVES, AREN'T THEY?
一年 0 0
二年 12 9
HOW LONG IS THIS ATTACK GOING TO GO ON FOR?
LORD... HAVE MERCY.

W... WOW...
THIS IS HIGH SCHOOL BASE-BALL...!?
NOW'S A GOOD TIME... HUH
PITCHER CHANGE!
SATORU FURUYA, GET ON THE MOUND!
IS THAT GUY NOT STIFF AT ALL?..
WOOSH
IS HE OK?
oo
POP

STARE
STARE


WHAT JUNIOR HIGH IS HE FROM?
BONK
YAWN
THAT GUY.. WHO IS HE..?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE...

STARE
STARE

LET'S TEAR APART THE 'MONSTER ROOKIE'!!
CRACK
HE'S UP, HUH.
S
S
...
THIS GUY.. WHAT KIND OF PITCHING WILL HE BRING AGAINST SUCH AN AWESOME LINEUP..
GRIT
THIS BATTLE IS ALREADY OVER..
21 TO 0
ENDA

S
?
...
OKAyyy»
STOMP

SFX:ZOOOO

HEE!?

KOOM
DIAMOND ACE

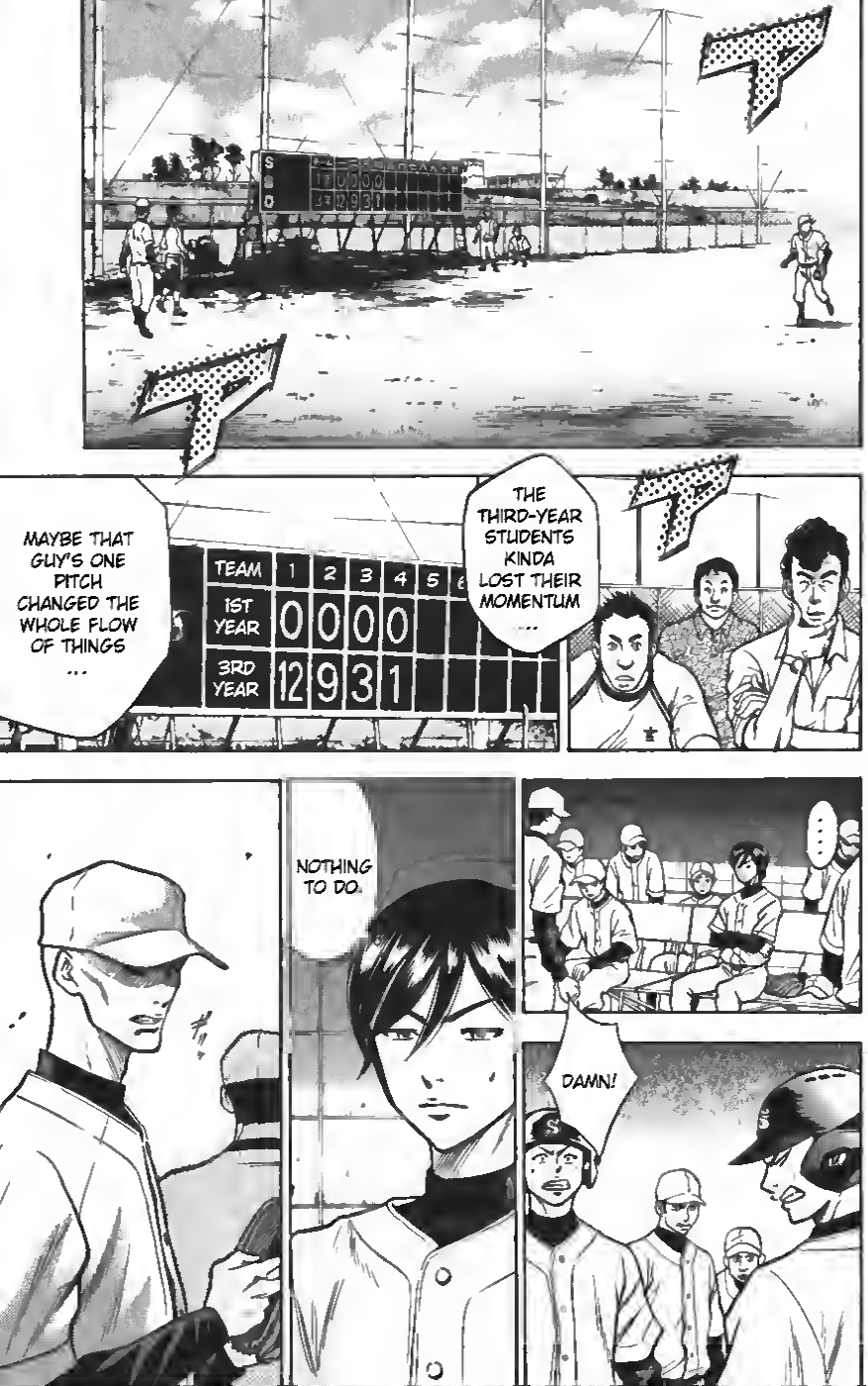
CHAPTER 12 NOT YET!
ダイヤのA
WH-WHAT... WAS THAT?
NH...

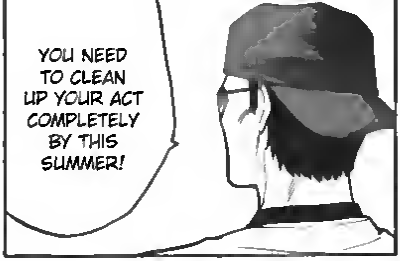
IT GOT LIFTED UP IN A WHIRLWIND ...
I SENSED IT WOULD GO LOW BUT...
RIGHT WHEN THE BALL WAS RELEASED ...
AND SLIPPED RIGHT ABOVE THE TOP OF MY MITT!?
COACH!
H-HEAD COACH ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

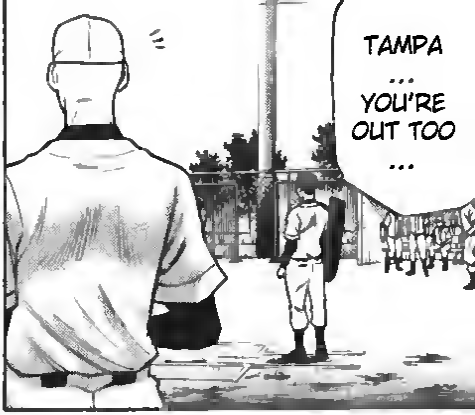
YOU PASSED, SATORU
BE AT THE FIRST-STRING TEAM'S PRATICE STARTING TOMORROW!!
HH?
WHA!!

CLICK
STARE
CLICK
FIRST STRING ... LUCKY
YOU ..
YOU SERIOUS ...?
IS THAT IT?
THIS WAY, I'LL GET TO TEAM UP WITH, MY SENIOR, KAZUYA.
I WANTED TO PITCH SOME MORE BUT.. WHATEVER
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A FIRST-YEAR PLAYER THAT CAN HANDLE HIS PITCHES.
I WANT TO LET HIM CONTINUE, BUT...
IF IT WAS ATLEAST 3.. NO, 2, THEN WE CAN GET A REAL LOOK AT HIS STYLE!!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, SIR
HE HASN'T THROWN BUT ONE PITCH
!

TO GET TO NATIONALS, THERE'S NO BETTER PRACTICE PARTNER ALIVE ...
COOL YOUR JETS! IF YOU MAKE IT TO FIRST-STRING, I'LL LET YOU HIT ALL DAY.
PITCHER CHANGE!
NEXT PITCHER COME TO THE MOUND!
STARE
STARE
HAHA.. YOU WON'T LET ANYONE HIT, RIGHT ...?
AS IT TURNS OUT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
TOMORROW, I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYBODY IN HERE GET A HIT...
SO THEN... WILL YOU BE MY CATCHER?


MAYBE THAT GUY'S ONE PITCH CHANGED THE WHOLE FLOW OF THINGS ...
TEAM 1 2 3 4 5
1ST YEAR 0 0 0 0
3RD YEAR 12 9 3 1
THE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS KINDA LOST THEIR MOMENTUM ...
NOTHING TO DO.
...
DAMN!


YOU NEED TO CLEAN UP YOUR ACT COMPLETELY BY THIS SUMMER!


TAMPA ... YOU'RE OUT TOO ...

HUH?

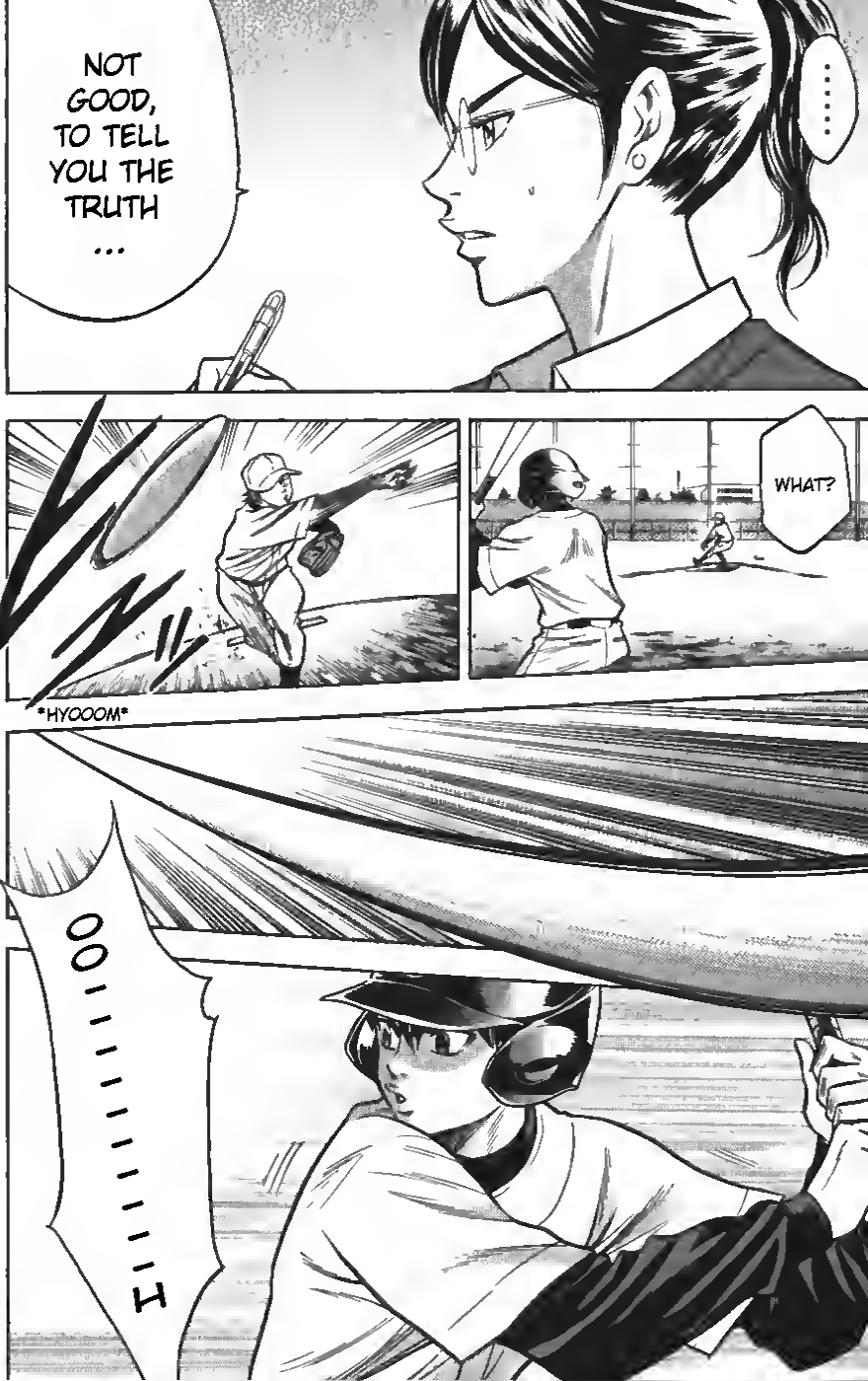
KEEP PITCHING WITH CONFIDENCE!
AS LONG AS YOU STICK TO THE PITCHING FUNDAMENTALS, YOU'LL BE GOOD FOR NATIONALS!

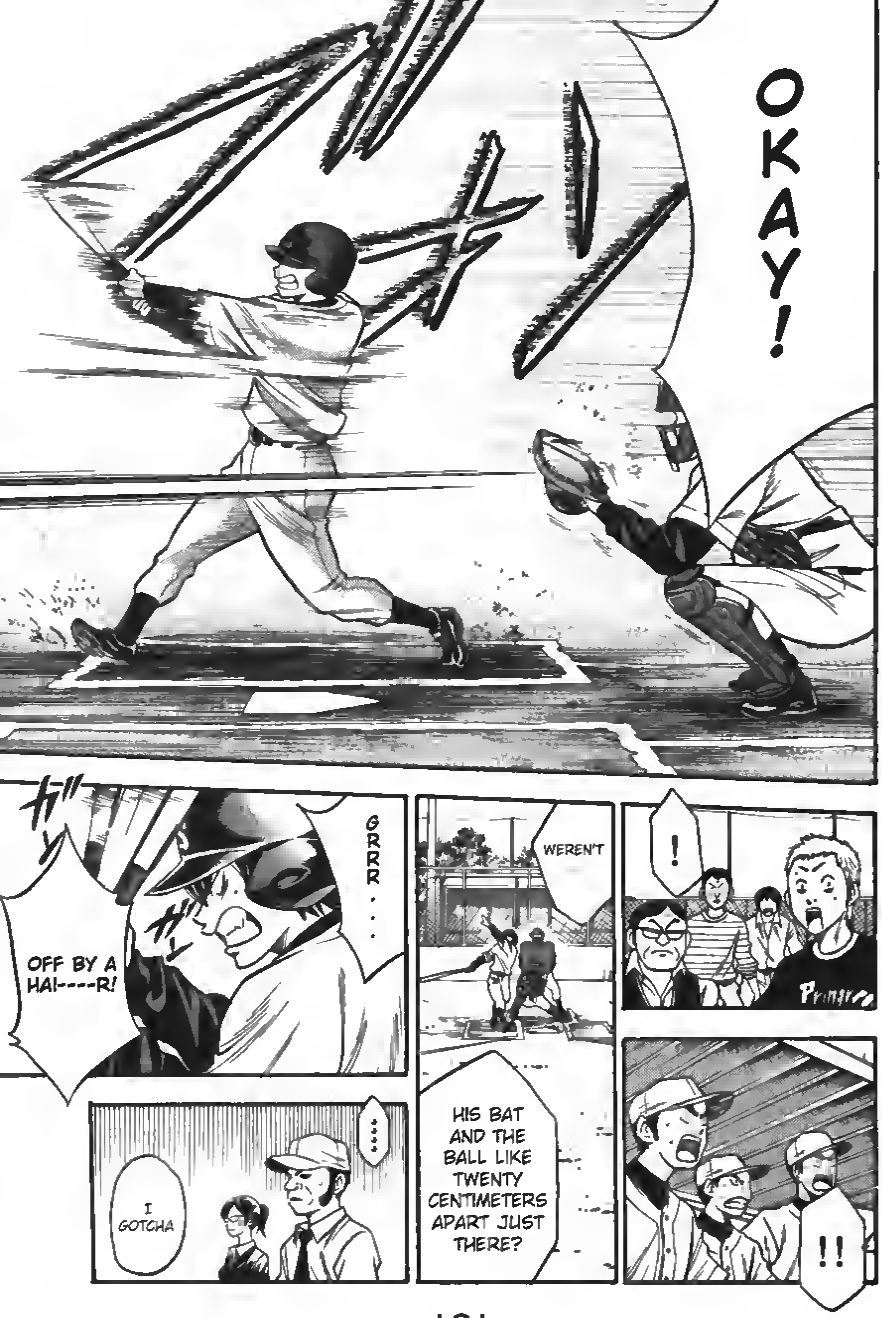
YES, SIR!

WOOM
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY REASON TO KEEP THIS GAME GOING ....
PRETTY GOOD HARVEST TODAY ...
WOOSH
WOOM
WOOM
.....
STILL FIVE CHANCES LEFT!
CAN'T STAND SEEING IT END LIKE THIS !!!

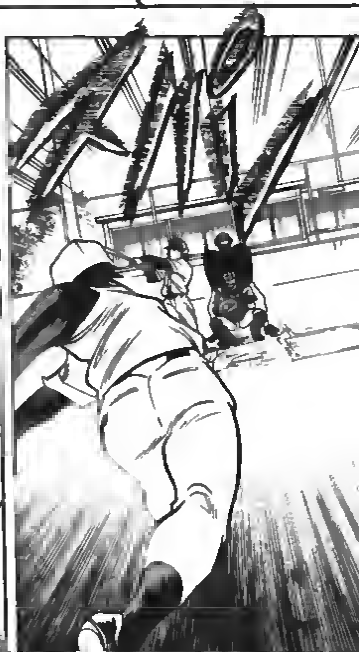
I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BREAK-THROUGH TODAY!
LET'S GET THAT FIRST RUN!
EI-JUN ...
....
HUH!?
...
CLICK
EVEN IF HE GETS A RUN, HE STILL WON'T MOVE UP TO FIRST-STRING ...
しゃあ!
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT ...
HE STILL HASN'T GIVEN UP, EVEN WITH THEIR HUGE LEAD ...
I MEAN .... DID HE FORGET THAT HE DID A JUMP FOR JOY?
SHALL WE CHECK THINGS OUT FOR JUST ONE MORE INNING?
HMMPF

DID YOU HEAR ME? I SAID 'MEETCHA'.
NICE TO MEETCHA !!!
BACK UP!!
OH... THS BOY CAME HERE WITH YOUR HIGH RECCOMMENDATION, RIGHT, MS. TAKASHIMA ...
HOW'S HIS BATTING ?
SQUINT
STILL STARING DOWN HIS SENIORS ...
HAHA... THIS GUY DOESN'T CHANGE, HUH


NOT GOOD, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH ...
.....
WHAT?
HYOOOM
OO-------H


OKAY!
GRRR...
OFF BY A HAI----R!
WEREN'T
HIS BAT AND THE BALL LIKE TWENTY CENTIMETERS APART JUST THERE?
!
!!
I GOTCHA
....

GIVE ME A PITCH WITH MORE LIFE TO IT!



HE'S STILL GOT SOME FIGHT IN HIM
フッ

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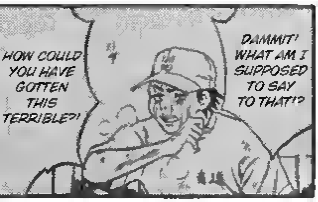
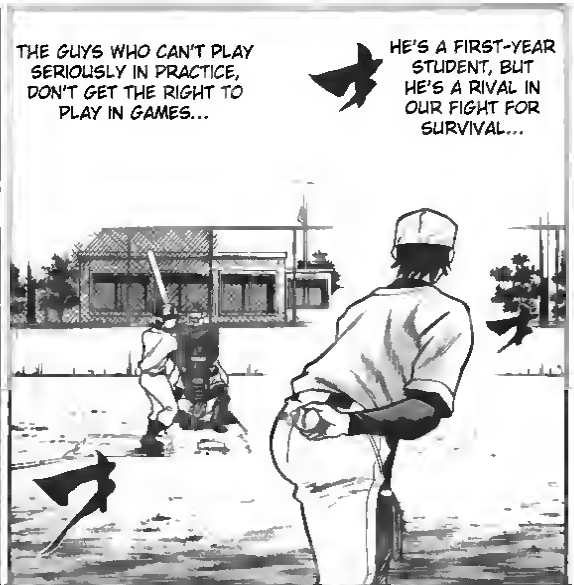

HOW COULD YOU HAVE GOTTEN THIS TERRIBLE?!
DAMMIT! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THAT!?

THAT'S! WHY I...
KIYOKUN! IS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT...


THE GUYS WHO CAN'T PLAY SERIOUSLY IN PRACTICE, DON'T GET THE RIGHT TO PLAY IN GAMES...
HE'S A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, BUT HE'S A RIVAL IN OUR FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL...

KEEP THEM DOWN UNTIL THE LAST PITCH.
I'M HITTING THIS!

C-CRAP...
NOT EVEN THE BROAD SIDE...

THE CATCHER DEFLECTED IT BEHIND HIM!!
NOT YET !!
WASTE OF ENERGY, KID ...
ERRG ...
EVEN IF YOU GET TO FIRST BASE ON AN UNCAGHT THIRD STRIKE, YOUR VALUE ISN'T GOING TO GO UP!

YOU THINK I'M GOING TO REFUSE A CHANCE TO KEEP THE PLAY GOING?
SHUT UP...
WITHOUT HAVING DONE ANYTHING... IS NOT HOW I WANT IT TO END!!
JUST LIKE THIS...
WHAT AN ACE SHOULD BE...
WHAT FIRST-STRING SHOULD BE... WHAT DOES THAT MATTER RIGHT NOW...
MAKE I--- --T !!!

SAFE!
UWHOOOOOA
IT MAY BE A SINGLE OFF AN UNCAUGHT THIRD STRIKE, BUT IT'S OUR FIRST SINGLE NONETHELESS!!
ニヲル
NICE HUSTLE !!
...
!

SLIDE SLIDE
SAFE!
WHOA!
THIS IS THE FIRST RUNNER THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS HAVE HAD..
WHO'S VOICE WAS THAT JUST NOW?
IF I HADN'T HEARD THAT, I NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT IN TIME.
HUFF
HUFF
THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF LIFE BACK HERE, SO I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU...
...
YOU SURPR-ISED ME.
HEY, MAN... YOU'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME?
ACE OF DIAMONDS

CHAPTER 13 - THE PINCH-HITTER IS ME!

SORRY ... IT'S MY FAULT A RUNNER GOT OUT ...
DON'T SWEAT IT.
THESE FRESHMEN WON'T EVEN GET ONE RUN.
...
BESIDES ...
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY FIRST-YEAR PLAYERS WITH THE SAME SPIRIT AS THAT GUY ...
WAHAHAHAHAHA
I'M GUNNA RU~N ~~~
PAY ATTENTION!
HYOOO
OOPS
HEH HEH ... PRETTY GOOD
EVEN THEIR PICK-OFF THROWS ARE UP TO THEIR PRESTIGIOUS STANDARDS ...
TSUPAAA!
TSUPAAA!

BYOON
SSS
SO FAST !!
WH-
WOOPAHH
ERGH ..
STRIKE! BATTER OUT!
BUT THERE'S NO CHANCE ...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO STEAL A BASE OVER AND OVER ...
ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE, HUH ..
... HAHA

WHOONF
I FEEL BAD FOR THEIR ONE RUNNER
THEY HAVE NO PLAN FOR ADVANCING THEIR RUNNERS ...
I DON'T SEE ANY AMBITION TO SCORE A RUN
AHH- TWO BATTERS STRUCK OUT IN A ROW
THIS LONG-AWAITED CHANCE IS GOING DOWN THE TOILET
EVEN WITH A BASE RIGHT NOW, IT'S TOO LATE!
IT'S NO USE!! WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A COACH GIVING US SIGNALS
AND HOW CAN WE GET OUR TIMING RIGHT WHEN THEY KEEP CHANGING THE PITCHERS?!
...
UKYA

MAY I GO AHEAD AND PRACTICE BY MYSELF?
EXCUSE ME. SINCE I WON'T HAVE ANOTHER TURN AT BAT
IS THAT OK, DIRE-CTOR?
H...HEY ... WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME ...
SEE YA!
WHA?
NO MATTER WHAT, THIS LAST ONE IS THE END OF THE GAME.
THERE'S NO REASON TO CONTINUE ON.
DOESN'T MATTER ...

IS THAT FINE, MR. MONSTER ?
NOT WATCHING TO THE END ...
IT'S ALREADY OVER
BASEBALL ISN'T SO SIMPLE ...
THAT ONE PERSON CAN LEAD A TEAM TO VICTORY.
DAMN... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY ...
WE ALL WANT THIS GAME TO END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ...
JUST BECAUSE HE CAN GO UP TO FIRST-STRING ...

!
WHAT DID YOU ALL COME HERE FOR?
SNICKER
FOR THE END THAT WE ALL SEEK ...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE STARTING TO REALIZE THAT YOUR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STAND FOR NOTHING HERE?
IF YOU HAVE NO AMBITION, SWITCH OUT.
WHA??
HHH...

PLAYER CHANGE, PLEASE!
SORRY ...
THE PINCH-HITTER IS ME!
WOW, THIS GAME JUST GOT INTERESTING AGAIN!
AND, ISN'T THAT A WOODEN BAT?!
HE THINKS HE CAN CALL ALL THE SHOTS!?
!

THIS YEAR'S FIRST-YEARS ARE A MESS ...
HAHA... WE'VE GOT A GUY LEAVING IN THE MIDDLE
AND A GUY CALLING IN HIS OWN PINCH-HIT.

PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
ペコリ

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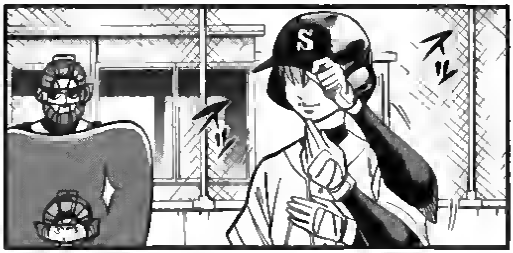
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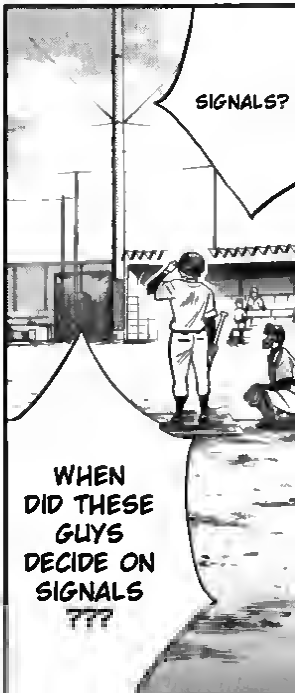
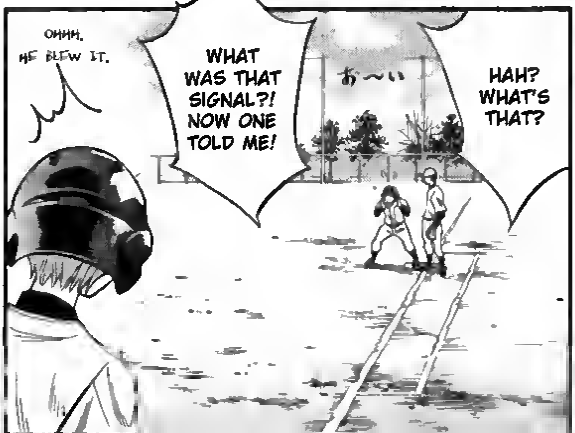
IF WE CAN GET THE PITCHER TO WORRY EVEN A LITTLE, THE ADVANTAGE WILL BE OURS
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNALS ...


SIGNALS?
WHEN DID THESE GUYS DECIDE ON SIGNALS ???


OHHH. HE BLEW IT.
WHAT WAS THAT SIGNAL?! NOW ONE TOLD ME!
あ～い
HAH? WHAT'S THAT?

HMMM.. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO FOR IT STRAIGHT ON...
WAHAHAHA.. WHAT WAS THIS GUY TRYING TO DO?
THEY AREN'T IN SYNC AT ALL.
I'M GOING TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY BACK TO HOME PLATE!
LET'S BOTH GET RUNS!

おおおおおお
I'M MEAN, THIS GUY IS TOO AMBITIOUS. IS HE AN IDIOT?
STATING HE'S GOING TO GET A RUN RIGHT AWAY!?
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS!?
HA HA HA
HAHA ...
...WHAT?
MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO HOME!?
WHO IS THAT KID?
WAS HE A STAND-OUT IN THE ABILITY TEST?

NO MATTER WHAT, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BUILD OF A LONG-DISTANCE BATTER, RIGHT!
EVEN SO, THE WAY HE IS CHOKING UP ON THE BAT LIKE THAT
HE WON'T BE able TO HIT AN OUTSIDE BALL.
NOD
WHAT IS HE AIMING FOR..
FOR NOW LET'S PUT THE BALL ON THE OUTSIDE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS..
FROM YOKO JUNIOR HIGH IN KANAGAWA PRE-FECTURE
SSSSAH
HE'S HARUICHI KOMINATO

!
HE ...
HE WAS CHOKING UP ON A LONG BAT!?
HHN!?
スイ
WHISHH
肩 B
走塁 B
持久力 C
6秒8

A BATTING AVERAGE OF .635 IN JUNIOR HIGH
GOING WITH AN OUTSIDE PITCH FOR AN UNKNOWN OPPONENT
THERE'S NO EASIER PITCH TO HIT THAN THIS ONE ...

KKKKRACK
SERIOUS!?
HE HIT THE OUTSIDE PITCH ...
WHA...
DASH
JUST NEAR THE RIGHT-SIDE LINE.
NO WAY. HE KNEW FROM THE START...
IF IT STAYS IN, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG ONE!!

FAIR!!
HUH !?
STARTED RUNNING BEFORE THE HIT ...
HE....
RIDICU-LOUS ...
GRRR ...
HURRY! THE RUNNER IS PASSING THIRD !!!
ARE WE GONNA LET THESE FRESHMEN GET A RUN!?

UWHOO OOOOA. HE HIT THIRD BASE!
HE'S GOING FOR HOME!!
GO!
A FRIEND TOLD ME TO GO FOR THE RUN ...
I AM GOING HOME !!!

STUPID TWERP !!!
HE WON'T MAKE IT
THERE'S NO WAY ...
I'M GOING TO SLAM YOU!
OOOOOOOOOH
CONITNUED IN VOLUME 3